

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**1723 Driver**  
**William Ernest Regan**

**53rd Battalion**



2260510G

53rd Battalion.

A.I.F.

W.E.

REGAN.

1723.

"Died of Wounds 10-4-18"

I did not see casualty but he was wounded by a shell in reserve lines behind Villers Bretonneux in leg and other parts. Am not certain but think he is buried at Aubigny. He at one time lived at Gunnesah where I live. I knew him - he did not live at Gunnesah when he enlisted.

Informant:- Foote.E.923.

53rd Battn. A.Co.

Hut 19.WESTHAM.

London.

23-7-16.

J.E.A.

S.

53rd Battn:

Regan, W.E. 1723.

D/W. 10/4/18.

He was wounded at Villers Bretonneux by a shell, his lungs being perforated. The stretcher bearers brought him to the R.A.P. he was quite conscious all the time in fact he said to us "Ask Fergusson to write to my wife" but none of us knew or could find Fergusson. He died about a quarter of an hour after arrival at the R.A.P. in my arms. He is buried at the Uivillian Cemetery at Villers Bretonneux.

53rd Battn:

McNeil, J.H.D.Pte.2545.

10 A. Dartford. 3/7/18.

R.D.B.

S

FRANCE.

55rd BATT. A.I.F.

REGAN. W.E. 1723.

D/W April 10th. 1918. Det.

He was in A.Coy, IV Platoon and was wounded by a shell and was being carried back to the dressing station, but he died before he reached it. He was buried in the civil cemetery at Villers Bretonneux.

WSI.

Ref ---Pte E.A.Hinge. 5529

*J. A.*

*S.*

Le Treport. July 18th. 1918

53rd Battn. A.I.F.  
A Coy.

REGAN W.E. 1723 Pte.

"Died of Wounds 10.4.18."

Was on the Amiens front on 10th April when Regan was hit by shrapnel at the same time that I was. He was badly hit in the chest. We were both carried away together to the Dressing Station where he died without recovering consciousness.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.  
Description:- A short man.

Inf. A.E. Godden 1661 L/Cpl.  
Guildford War Hospital

Home Address.  
Cook St.,  
Lithgow.  
N.S.W.

Reliable.

S.

John Comber,  
London.  
23.7.18.  
J.E.A.

53rd Battn. A.I.F.

REGAN W.E. 1723

"Died of Wounds 10.4.18."

His mate Pte. Harry Hook and Sgt. Byatt were in his platoon (in A. Co) and were with him when he was killed while sitting on the top of a dug-out in the daytime in April /18 on the left of Villers-Bretonneux. We called Regan "Billy". He was a fair man and came from Coolah N.S.W. the only Regan in A. Co. I don't know which platoon the three men belonged to.

Inf. Pte. J.H. Colley, 4671,  
53rd Battn. A.I.F.  
A. Co.

A.G. Campbell,  
London.  
23.7.18.  
J.E.A.

DARTFORD.

S.

53rd Battn. A.I.F.

REGAN W.E. 1723.

"Died of Wounds 10.4.18."

He was of A. Coy. IV Platoon. on right of Corbie in reserve trenches. Hit by shrapnel shell in head and chest. This was early in morning about 7 o'clock on 10th April.

Taken by S/B to R A P about 200 yds. away, died there on stretcher. We were both carried out at the same time. I was removed from R. A. P. and don't know about burial. Would be buried near there as Military Cemeteries are near all these villages about this locality.

Came from H. S. W. Madge, I think. Christian name William.

Inf. L/Cpl. A. E. Godden, 1661,

53rd Battn. A. Coy.

IV Platoon.

HAREFIELD.

A. D. G.  
London.  
24.7.18.  
J. E. A.

S.

53rd Battalion, A.I.F.

REGAN, J.E.

Private No. 1723.

"Died of Wounds, 10.4.18".

Informant described Regan as about 5'8" high, medium build, very fair complexion, aged about 22/23. Married. Came from the country.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company, No. 4, Platoon. On 10.4.18 the Battalion was in reserves at Villers Bretonneux. The trench that they were occupying was a very shallow one and the sleeping places were very restricted in size. Some of the chaps, including Informant were asleep between 9 a.m. and noon but Regan and some others remained awake to enlarge their posse to make it so that they could sleep more comfortably. When so engaged a shell came over and burst near by and very severely wounded Regan, so that he died on the stretcher before they could reach the Doctor at Villers Bretonneux. The explosion of the shell woke Informant but by the time he came out to see what had happened Regan had been taken away.

Informant:- Private J. Turrill, No. 3453,  
"A" Company, 53rd Battalion.

Home Address:- C/- Mrs. Greenaway,  
"Kvelyn", George Street,  
Glyde.

W.E.G.

14.8.18.

No. 4, Australian General Hospital,

RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

53rd Battn.  
A.I.F.

REGAN W.E. 1723  
Godden A.R. 1659

"DIED OF WOUNDS 10-4-18"

Pte. A.R. Godden A. Coy. 53rd Battn. 1659 belonged to my section, and was killed in the Field at Villers Bretonneux on April 10/18, and was buried there near by. Also W.E. Regan 1723 was seriously wounded and died a hour later. And both men had a Cross put up for them with both their names on. I did not see their grave myself, but other boys in my Coy. told me that it was quite right, so that I think you can rely on it. The principal points about his description - he was very dark in complexion and very hard of hearing - near about 6 feet in height.

Letter from - Hook. Pte. H.R. 4441  
53rd Battn. A. Coy.  
France.  
7-11-18

London  
18-11-18  
J.E.D.

S.



1723

H. E. Negau

53 Bth

See under

1659

A. R. Golden

53 Bth